



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet Abandoned Mine Inventory and Remediation

Field Inventories

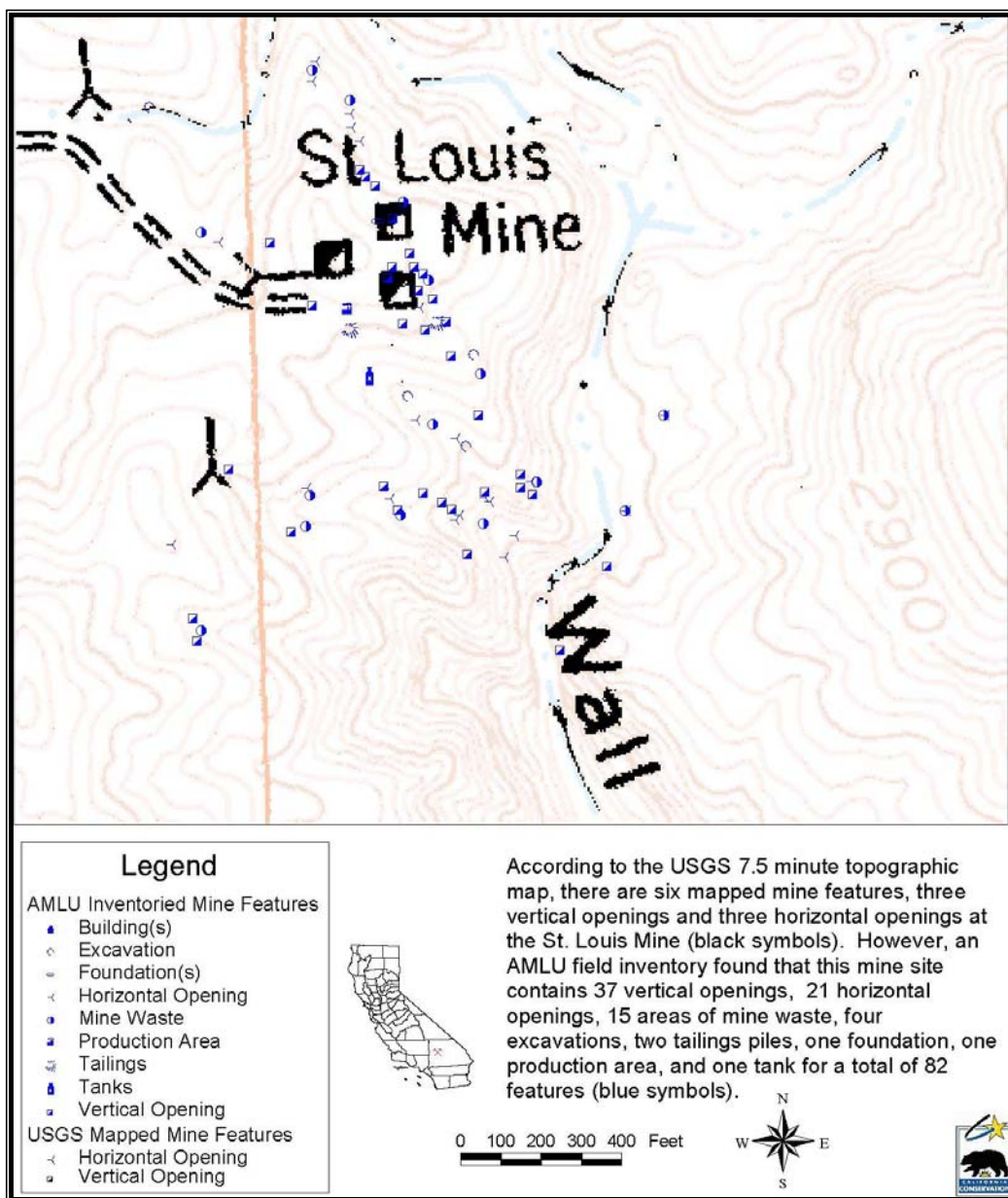
● The Department of Conservation's **Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU)** began cataloging California's abandoned mines in 1997 using \$250,000 from the Department's Surface Mining and Reclamation Account.

● From 1997 through July 31, 2006, the AMLU has inventoried **2,346** abandoned mine sites and **13,764** mine features.

● To support its inventory work, the AMLU uses its [Topographically Occurring Mine Symbols database](#), comprised of mine symbols scanned and digitized from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7½-minute topographical maps.

● On average, the AMLU finds 3.5 mine features per mapped symbol during field inventories. The number of features per symbol varies from site to site as shown in the St. Louis Mine example to the right.

● For more information, including a map of potential and inventoried abandoned mine feature locations in California, visit the AMLU website at www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land.



Remediations

Following the 2002-03 Budget Act, the AMLU split its activities and funding between abandoned mine inventory and remediation. Since January 2006, the AMLU's primary funding to remediate abandoned mine hazards, approximately \$400,000 per year, has come from a fee collected on gold and silver (\$5 per ounce of gold and 10¢ per ounce of silver) mined in California.¹ Working with its partners, who typically contribute funds or in-kind services, the AMLU has leveraged State dollars by nearly 100 percent, remediating more hazards than it could with its own resources only.

From 2002 through July 31, 2006, the AMLU has remediated **269** hazardous features in 18 California counties in partnership with many public and private entities, including those listed below.²

State/Local Agencies

- California Conservation Corps
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Transportation
- State Lands Commission
- State Office of Historic Preservation
- Paradise Irrigation District

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Private Partners

- Bat Conservation International
- Western States Trail Foundation

Most AMLU abandoned mine remediation projects involve the remediation of physical hazards using the techniques listed below.

- Wire fencing (may include desert tortoise fencing).....
- Backfills.....
- Closed with polyurethane foam (PUF).....
- Fitted with bat-compatible gates, cupolas, or culverts.....
- Other closures (blasted shut, fitted with steel cap, partial fencing, etc.).....
- Unstable structures demolished or hazardous debris removed.....

# Features Remediated	
2006 (to 7/31/06)	2002-2006 (cumulative)
16	49
50	117
5	27
29	62
4	5
2	9
Total features remediated:	269



Fence, Imperial Co.



Backfill in progress, Mariposa Co.



PUF closure in progress, Kern Co.



Bat gate in progress, Riverside Co.



Bat cupola, San Bernardino Co.



Bat cupola, Inyo Co.

¹ See Senate Bill 649, Kuehl *et al.* (Public Resources Code § 2207(d)(4)(B)).

² For recent projects and partners, see www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land/Contracts/index1.htm.